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45 *Food that's in
when school is out!*



Schools can help...

The Summer Food Service Program for Children



Everyone Wins With Summer Food!

- Low-income children have nutritious meals and organized activities.
- Low-income parents stretch food dollars and have healthy recreation for their children.
- Food service workers have summer employment.
- The school receives Federal money to carry out the program.

What is the summer food program?

The Summer Food Service Program for Children is a federally funded program operated nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered at the State level by a State agency. The agency reimburses sponsors (such as schools) for meals served at approved feeding sites in low-income areas to children 18 years and under.

How does the summer food program differ from the school lunch program?

If you have an academic summer school program, you should continue to participate in school lunch and breakfast. However, the summer food program is ideal if you sponsor an enrichment, recreational, or activities program over the summer. The summer food service reimbursement rate is higher than that for school lunch.

Who can sponsor the summer food program?

Units of local government, camps, private nonprofit organizations, and *schools*.

What is an approved feeding site?

A feeding site must be approved by the State agency as either an “open” or “enrolled” site.

An “open” site is one in which at least half the children in the area are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

An “enrolled” site is one in which at least half the children enrolled in the summer program are eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch.

Who can receive meals at an approved feeding site?

All children 18 years of age or under are eligible to receive free meals at an “open” site. Only enrolled children may eat at an “enrolled” site.

How does my school apply to be a program sponsor?

Contact the State agency and complete an application form supplied by the agency.





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How are schools reimbursed for the meals served?

Forms documenting how many meals were served for the month must be submitted to the State agency. There is an administering and operating rate for each meal served. The sponsor will be reimbursed at that rate or for actual cost if less than the rate.

What type of meal service is required?

Meals must have the same meal components as school lunch and breakfast. Lunch and one other meal or snack may be served. Additional benefits are available for migrant sites.

Does my school prepare the meals?

A school may serve as a sponsor and either prepare its own meals or contract with a vendor. A school may also serve as a vendor for another sponsor and not administer or supervise a feeding site.



***Make Summer a Nutritious and Healthy
Experience for Lower Income Children***

Operate A Summer Food Program

Around 14 million children depend on free or reduced-price school lunches and breakfasts for 9 months out of the year.

For many of those children, summer vacation does not mean "fun in the sun" but rather increased risk of hunger and developmental decline.

As educators, you may know that children who miss school breakfast and lunch are more likely to be sick, absent or tardy, disruptive in class, and inattentive. They also score lower on achievement tests. Good nutrition is essential for learning in school.

Learning does not end when school lets out. Neither does the need for good nutrition—which is crucial for children to have safe and productive summers.

The summer food program provides an opportunity to continue a child's physical and social development while providing nutritious meals. The summer food program helps lower income children return to school ready to learn.



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What's the next step?

Contact your State agency or the appropriate USDA regional office listed here:

Mid-Atlantic 609-259-5025

DC 202-576-7400
DE 302-739-4676
MD 410-767-0199
NJ 609-292-4498
PA 717-787-7698
PR 787-754-0790
VA 609-259-5134
VI 340-774-9373
VV 304-558-2708

Northeast 617-565-6370

CT 860-807-2071
ME 207-287-5315
MA 781-388-3300 x494
NH 603-271-3646
NY 518-473-8781
RI 401-222-4600 x2360
VT 802-828-2447

Southeast 404-562-1800

AL 334-242-8249
FL 800-504-6609
GA 404-562-7077
KY 502-573-4390
MS 601-354-7015
NC 919-715-1924
SC 803-734-9794
TN 615-313-4749

Midwest 312-353-6664

IL 217-782-2491
IN 317-232-0850
MI 312-353-3089
MN 651-582-8526
OH 614-466-2945
WI 608-266-7124

Mountain Plains 303-844-0300

CO 303-866-6661
IA 515-281-5356
KS 785-296-2276
MO 888-435-1464
MT 406-444-2505
NE 402-471-3566
ND 701-328-2294
SD 605-773-3110
UT 802-828-5155
WY 307-432-5680

Southwest 214-290-9800

AR 501-682-8842
LA 225-342-3720
NM 505-827-9953
OK 405-521-3327
TX 512-483-3941

Western 415-705-1310/04

AK 907-465-8709
AZ 602-542-8704
CA 916-327-6465
HI 808-541-2857
ID 208-332-6820
NV 702-687-9154
OR 503-378-3600 x2610
WA 360-753-3580

Visit our website at: www.summerfood.usda.gov

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